

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 USIA-06 /016 W  
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R 191355Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4756  
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 307

E.O. 11652: ADS  
TAGS: OEXC, LT  
SUBJECT: LEADER GRANT NOMINATION

REF: MASERU 284

POST NOMINATES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL FOR 30-45 DAY IV LEADER  
GRANT IN CATEGORY CONSULTATION AND VISITATION:

1. NAME: JOSEPH R. L. KOTSOKOANE
2. SIGNIFICANT POSITIONS: PRESENTLY LESOTHO'S MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS, HE HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS PERMANENT SECRETARY IN  
THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH AND EDUCATION, AND FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS. FROM 1966-69 WAS HIGH COMMISSIONER IN LONDON, ALSO  
ACCREDITED AS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE. FROM 72-74 HE WAS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER IN NAIROBI.
3. PERSONAL DATA: BORN OCTOBER 19, 1922 IN JOHANNESBURG, RSA.  
CITIZENSHIP: MOSOTHO.
4. TRAVEL ABROAD: STUDIED AGRICULTURE FOR ONE YEAR AT IOWA STATE  
UNIV; HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY IN EUROPE, AFRICA, AND U.S. IN  
1970 WAS MEMBER OF FOUR-MAN TEAM SENT TO MEET WITH STATE  
DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AFTER CHIEF JONATHAN'S POLITICAL TAKEOVER.

5. PREVIOUS U.S. GRANT: NONE

6. ESCORT SERVICES: REQUIRED  
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7. VISA ELIGIBILITY: ELIGIBLE

8. REASON FOR NOMINATION: MR. KOTSOKOANE WAS APPOINTED LESOTHO'S FOREIGN MINISTER IN JULY 1974. SINCE THEN HE HAS TAKEN A MUCH MORE ACTIVE PART IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAN HIS PREDECESSORS. HE IS LIKELY TO BE AT THE CENTER OF DECISIONS IN THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD AND IS ALSO INFLUENTIAL IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. LESOTHO IS ALSO PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN OAU AFFAIRS UNDER KOTSOKOANE'S LEADERSHIP. HE IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO HOLD IMPORTANT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE LESOTHO GOVERNMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD. THE POST HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSE RAPPORT WITH HIM AND CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD UPON IT.

9. POST OBJECTIVE: TO GIVE THIS IMPORTANT LESOTHO OFFICIAL AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH STATE DEPT OFFICIALS AND THUS LEARN FIRSTHAND OF U.S. POLICY OBJECTIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, TO RENEW NOMINEE'S FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF U.S. FORMED DURING PREVIOUS VISITS, TO ALLOW U.S. OFFICIALS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FROM EXCEPTIONALLY ARTICULATE LESOTHO LEADER HIS NATION'S POSITIONS ON EVENTS AT OAU AND ON NEGOTIATIONS RE SOUTHERN AFRICA.

10. ESTIMATE OF AVAILABILITY: EITHER JUNE OR OCTOBER OF 1975, DEPENDING ON PRESSURE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES. MR. KOTSOKOANE HAS EXPRESSED DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN VISIT TO THE U.S.

11. DECONTROL AFTER NOMINATION APPROVED.  
HAUGHT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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